

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01523 170902Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 HA-05
ACDA-12 OMB-01 /092 W
-----022107 170904Z /10

O 170830Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 739
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PEPR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GAYLORD/GRAHAM MEETING

REF: PRETORIA 1511, LONDON 4229

1. THE PART OF THE FULL TEXT CONCERNING THE RATIONALE OF
THE GAYLORD/GRAHAM MEETING AS RELEASED BY THE RHODESIAN
GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 16 IS "THE MEETING IS PART OF THE
CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND WILL AFFORD AN
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO THE BRITISH AND UNITED STATES
REPRESENTATIVES THOSE ASPECTS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT
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WHICH HAVE BEEN CRITICISED BY BRITISH AND AMERICAN SPOKESMAN."
MARCH 17 ARTICLE IN "THE CITIZEN" FURTHER QUOTES A RHODESIAN
GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING "THE MEETING SHOWS
GREATER INTEREST IN THE INTERNAL ACCORD, WHICH IS
WELCOME."

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS FROM SALISBURY ON MARCH 17

THAT SITHOLE WAS INVITED BY THE BRITISH TO "A CONFERENCE IN PRETORIA" BUT THAT HE REFUSED. WHEN ASKED IF HE WERE "COLD-SHOULDERING" THE MEETING, SITHOLE REPORTEDLY REPLIED "YES, THAT'S WHAT I AM DOING. I HAVE ALREADY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT. ANYONE WHO THINKS I CAN NOW GO BACK ON WHAT I HAVE SIGNED DOES NOT KNOW ME ALL THAT WELL."

3. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AND MEDIA HAS GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT TO THE MEETING. COVERAGE HAS BEEN GENERALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD EXCEPT THAT THE SAG-ORIENTED MEDIA HAS SEEMED TO UNDERPLAY THE LEVEL OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN DELEGATES. "THE CITIZEN" HAS PICKED UP THE OFFICIAL RHODESIAN DESCRIPTION (REFTEL) OF "CIVIL SERVANTS" REPRESENTING THESE GOVERNMENTS AT THE TALKS AS OPPOSED TO RHODESIAN "GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES" ON THE OTHER SIDE. SABC RADIO COVERAGE SAYS THE DELEGATES WILL BE "A JOHN GRAHAM, A DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE FCO" AND A "SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA" WITH NO FURTHER EXPLANATION. BOWDLER

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